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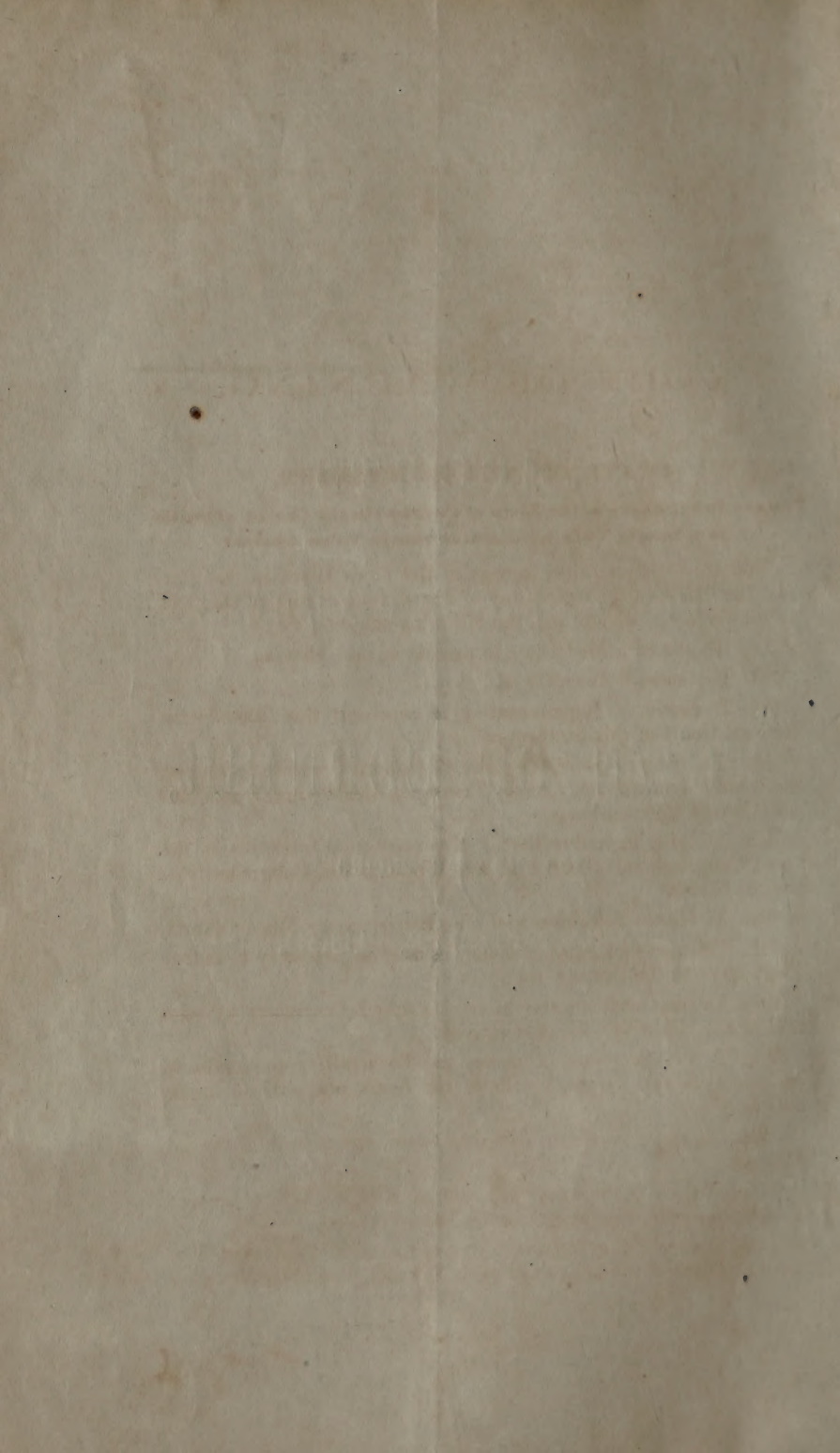
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REPORTS  
OF  
TOWN OFFICERS  
OF THE  
TOWN OF CORNISH,  
FOR THE YEAR, ENDING  
MARCH 8, 1859.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE  
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# COPY OF WARNING.

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## STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

**To the Inhabitants of the Town of Cornish, in the County of Sullivan, in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town House in said Cornish, on Tuesday, the eighth day of March next, at nine of the clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects, viz:—

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said Meeting.

2d. To choose a Town Clerk.

3d. To choose a Representative to represent this Town in the General Court of this State.

4th. To bring in your votes for Governor, Councilor, Senator, Railroad Commissioner, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and one County Commissioner.

5th. To bring in your votes for Representative to represent the third Congressional District of this State in the Congress of the United States.

6th. To choose Selectmen and all other necessary Town Officers.

7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges the ensuing year. 1200

8th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to make and repair Highways the ensuing year. 1600

9th. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise to procure a Hearses for the benefit of the Town, and provide for its safe keeping.

10th. To see if the Town will vote to sell one or both of the old Hearses.

11th. To see if the town will vote to divide the School money the ensuing year otherwise than the Law provides.

12th. To see if the Town will vote to disannex the farm of Merrill and Mitchell Coburn, situated in Cornish, and bounded as fol-

lows—beginning at the southwest corner of said farm, at a stake and stone, standing on the line of Joseph Richardson's land, thence easterly on the north line of Joseph Richardson, Solon H. Deming and James M. Davidson, to Nathan Leavitt's west line; thence north, on said Leavitt's west line, to land of Joseph Sargent; thence west, on the south line of said Sargent and Carlos F. Huggins, to the east line of land now owned by J. Orlando Richardson; thence south, on the east line of land of the said J. Orlando Richardson and Joseph Richardson, to the place of beginning, from School District No. 16, and annex the same to School District No. 6, in said Cornish.

13th. To see if the Town will vote to disannex the farm of John L. Paget, situated in Cornish, and bounded as follows, to wit: on the south, by land of Phineas Root; on the east, by land of John Stearns, John M. Root and John L. Putnam; on the north, by land formerly owned by Lafayette White, deceased, by the Wellman's, and by land conveyed to William E. Chadborn by Phineas Root; and on the west, by land of Sylvester Wilder, Sally Cady, and Horace G. P. Cross, and being the same land conveyed to William E. Chadborn by Zera P. and Ruth Smith, deceased, by their Deed, dated February the 20th, 1846, from School District No. 15, and annex the same to School District No. 1, in said Town.

14th. To see if the Town will vote to build a Stone Post and Board Fence on the north and west line of the Town House lot the ensuing year, and appropriate money for the same.

15th. To see if the Town will vote to hold Town Meetings on Cornish Flat, provided a suitable room shall be furnished free of expense to the Town.

Given under our hands and seal, this nineteenth day of February, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| J. M. DAVIDSON, | } <i>Selectmen</i> |
| CHESTER PIKE,   |                    |
| L. MARTINDALE,  |                    |
|                 | <i>of</i>          |
|                 | <i>Cornish.</i>    |

# SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

## RECEIPTS.

|                                                                                                                                              |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| The Selectmen have assessed the inhabitants of the Town of Cornish and land of non-residents including non-residents' Highway Tax the sum of | \$5,027 33 |
| School District No. 7,                                                                                                                       | 104 87     |
| “ “ “ 14,                                                                                                                                    | 57 24      |

There has been paid into the treasury the following additional sums:

|                                                   |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Literary Fund,                                    | 129 64 |
| Interest on School Fund,                          | 35 00  |
| Pauper expense refunded,                          | 1 00   |
| Cash refunded by School District No. 14,          | 20 00  |
| “ received of County for support of paupers,      | 28 79  |
| “ “ “ Josiah Stone for error,                     | 3 58   |
| “ “ for Circus License,                           | 30 00  |
| “ “ from Town of Richmond for support of paupers, | 20 69  |
| “ “ for Liquor Barrels,                           | 1 60   |
| “ “ of James F. Tasker for Lumber,                | 6 00   |
| “ hired March 24th, 1858 of M. H. Kenyon,         | 500 00 |
| “ hired of Joseph Wood, April 9th, 1858,          | 500 00 |

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\$6,465 74

|                                               |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Deduct cash paid State and County Treasurers, | 823 79 |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|

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Leaves a balance of \$5,641 95

## EXPENDITURES.

|                                                                    |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| For support of Schools,                                            | \$1,134 68 |
| For School District 15, due in 1857,                               | 16 35      |
| Obed Powers, School House Tax, Dist. 11, in 1857,                  | 65 00      |
| William Balloch, services superintending School Committee in 1857, | 40 00      |
| John Lane, School House Tax, Dist. No. 7,                          | 100 00     |

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Amount carried forward, \$1, 356 03

|                                                                                                  |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Amount bro't forward,                                                                            | \$1,356 03 |
| J. M. Deming, School House Tax, District, No. 14,                                                | 54 55      |
| For support of Poor away from Alms House,                                                        | 192 58     |
| For Plank and Timber,                                                                            | 231 93     |
| G. Parker Lyon, for Town Books,                                                                  | 11 02      |
| Bishop & Tracy, Town Officers' Reports, &c., 1857-8,                                             | 13 50      |
| James F. Tasker, for building Wing Bridge, 1857,                                                 | 130 00     |
| Town of Plainfield, repairing Nutting Bridge, in 1857,                                           | 7 00       |
| E. P. Kenyon and others, for repairing Roads and Bridges,                                        | 107 18     |
| David H. Hilliard, Fuse, Powder, &c.,                                                            | 2 09       |
| Israel Hall, Insurance Town Farm Buildings,                                                      | 13 00      |
| Geo. W. Weld, for Sled for Town Farm, 1857,                                                      | 4 50       |
| Charles Tyler and others, rapairing Buildings at Alms<br>House,                                  | 20 50      |
| Thomas A. Allen, damage on Plow in 1857,                                                         | 1 00       |
| Samuel Ayers, " " "                                                                              | 1 50       |
| James Fitch, " " "                                                                               | 1 87       |
| Geo. D. Kenyon, " " " in 1857,                                                                   | 2 33       |
| Thomas A. Allen, Stone for Culvert,                                                              | 6 30       |
| Eldad Coburn, for Stone,                                                                         | 2 50       |
| Otis F. R. Waite, for Town Order Blanks,                                                         | 2 12       |
| E. L. Cushing, Attorney Fees,                                                                    | 5 00       |
| N. C. Bancroft, damages on Horses, &c.,                                                          | 140 00     |
| Orlando Powers, Adm'r on D. G. Westgate's Estate, for<br>collecting Taxes in 1857,               | 25 00      |
| Orlando Powers, abatement of Taxes on D. G. West-<br>gate's Estate,                              | 3 65       |
| Henry Gould, nails for Alms House,                                                               | 3 61       |
| John T. Breck, notifying Jurors,                                                                 | 3 75       |
| Zeno Hunter, Damage on Goods,                                                                    | 25 00      |
| David H. Hilliard, Expenses of getting Weights and<br>Measures sealed, and County Sealer's Bill, | 3 23       |
| David H. Hilliard for 600 lb. balance,                                                           | 9 50       |
| Levi Ayers, pass for B. F. Bugbee,                                                               | 6 00       |
| Freeman & McClure, Attorney Fees,                                                                | 10 00      |
| Samuel L Putnam, abatement of Taxes,                                                             | 2 19       |
| S. M. Putnam, " " "                                                                              | 2 19       |
| Eri Richardson, " " "                                                                            | 1 46       |
| Levi Ayers, " " "                                                                                | 1 82       |
| Alonzo Knights, " " "                                                                            | 61         |
| Sarah Wyman, " " "                                                                               | 1 46       |
| Hiram Little, " on Tax Book,                                                                     | 57 18      |
| Bradley Burr, " on D. G. Westgate's Tax<br>Book, 1857,                                           | 55 84      |
| Lysander Knights and others, breaking Roads,                                                     | 6 00       |
| Amount carried forward,                                                                          | \$2,524 99 |

|                                                                      |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Amount bro't forward,                                                | \$2,524 99 |
| Lucinda Weld, for clothing,                                          | 12 00      |
| Philo Norris, Agent services for the year ending March<br>1st, 1859, | 149 50     |
| Contingent Expenses,                                                 | 52 11      |
| J. M. Davidson, Expenses in Bancroft Suit,                           | 8 50       |
| Elijah Boardman, Medical Services, 1857,                             | 2 00       |
| John T. Breck, Town Clerk "                                          | 21 00      |
| Araunah Burnap, Treasurer "                                          | 10 00      |
| Selectmen,                                                           | 143 01     |
| Collector's                                                          | 28 00      |

Amounting to the sum of \$2,951 11

Which sum deducted from the foregoing Receipts, leaves a balance in favor of the Town of \$2,690 84.

We recommend to the inhabitants of the Town of Cornish to raise to defray Town Charges the ensuing year the sum of \$1,200.

Also to repair Highways and Bridges the sum of \$1,600.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| J. M. DAVIDSON, | } <i>Selectmen</i> |
| CHESTER PIKE,   |                    |
| L. MARTINDALE,  |                    |

*of*  
*Cornish.*

# TREASURER'S REPORT,

OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN OF CORNISH, FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING MARCH 8TH, 1859.

## RECEIPTS.

|                                                                                                               |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash received from Henry Gould, former Treasurer,                                                             | \$279 77        |
| “ “ from Bradley Burr, Collector of taxes in part for the year 1857, in place of David G. Westgate, deceased, | 798 40          |
| “ “ from Hiram Little, Collector for the current year,                                                        | 4,339 17        |
|                                                                                                               | —————\$5,417 34 |
| “ “ from Mumford H. Kenyon, hired money,                                                                      | 500 00          |
| “ “ from Joseph Wood, hired money,                                                                            | 500 00          |
| “ “ from State Treasurer, Literary Fund,                                                                      | 129 64          |
| “ “ from Interest on School Fund,                                                                             | 43 83           |
| “ “ “ County Treasurer for support of paupers,                                                                | 28,79           |
| “ “ Town of Richmond for support of paupers,                                                                  | 20 69           |
| “ “ from Selectmen, for circus license,                                                                       | 30 00           |
|                                                                                                               | —————\$1,252 95 |
| “ “ Refunded from school district No. 14, on order overdrawn in 1857,                                         | 20 00           |
| “ “ refunded from Josiah Stone, on order overdrawn in 1857,                                                   | 3 58            |
| “ “ refunded from pauper expense, in 1857,                                                                    | 1 00            |
| “ “ from James M. Davidson, for liquor barrels,                                                               | 1 60            |
| “ “ from Selectmen for lumber sold from Town Farm,                                                            | 6 00            |
|                                                                                                               | ————— \$32 18   |
| Amounting to                                                                                                  | \$6,702 47      |

**EXPENDITURES.**

|                                                        |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Paid orders drawn in 1856, including interest thereon, | \$19 94          |
| “ “ drawn in 1857-8,                                   | 1,576 84         |
| “ “ “ for the past current year,                       | 4,020 54         |
| Amounting to                                           | <hr/> \$6,417 32 |

Deduct expenditure from cash received—excess of receipts over expenditure in hands of the Treasurer of 285 15

**Liabilities against the Town, viz:**

|                                                                                                                  |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Order drawn in favor of James Hildreth, November 17th, 1856, outstanding and unpaid, including interest thereon, | 113 80 |
| “ “ the current year,                                                                                            | 2 05   |
| Due heirs of Austin Tyler for land damage,                                                                       | 60 00  |
| Due William Balloch, Sup't School Committee, for services rendered the current year, estimated,                  | 45 00  |
| Due County Teachers' Institute,                                                                                  | 29 00  |
| Due School District No. 15 for School money,                                                                     | 7 13   |

Amounting to \$256 98  
Deduct liabilities from the above excess, \$256 98

Balance in favor of Town of \$28 17

**Resources in Favor of the Town, viz:**

|                                                                                          |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Due from State Treasurer, Railroad tax for two years,                                    | 50 96          |
| Due from S. L. Powers, former liquor agent,                                              | 23 48          |
| Cash in hands of J. O. Wyman, liquor agent, transferred from Abel Jackson, former agent, | 60 30          |
| Amounting to                                                                             | <hr/> \$74 74. |

Add balance of excess above to resources, and it leaves a balance in favor of the town of (one hundred two dollars ninety one cents) \$102 91

The School fund in the Treasury amounts to \$470 86.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ARAUNAH BURNAP, *Treasurer.*

470 86  
28 17  
42 83  

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15 58

# ALMS HOUSE REPORT.

|                                                                       |  |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------|
| For supporting this establishment the following sums have been paid : |  |          |
| Paid Agent for 1858, to February 28th, 1859,                          |  | \$250 00 |
| “ for Repairs,                                                        |  | 20 50    |
| Add amount paid out by Agent,                                         |  | 207 16   |
| Total,                                                                |  | \$477 66 |

## RECEIPTS.

|                                                                                              |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Rec'd of Mrs. Bartlett,                                                                      | \$78 80 |
| “ “ Town of Richmond,                                                                        | 4 64    |
| “ for 23 1-2 M. Shingles,                                                                    | 65 50   |
| “ from County for support of County Paupers,                                                 | 30 72   |
| “ “ Estate of Mary Weld,                                                                     | 2 27    |
| “ “ Produce of Farm, &c.,                                                                    | 125 73  |
| Excess of inventory above last year, consisting<br>of Stock, Provisions, Hay and Grain, &c., | 36 74   |

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\$344 40

Which deducted from the above leaves a balance against  
the Alms House of \$133 26

An inventory and appraisal of the personal property at the Alms House was made on the 28th day of February 1859, which amounts at par cash value, \$1,623 74, an increase over last year's appraisal of \$36 74. There has been laid upon the buildings the present season, 30 thousand shingles, at a cost of about \$90 over and above cost of repairs.

The produce of the farm has been as follows:—35 tons of hay, 175 bush. corn, 80 bush. oats, 17 bush. wheat, 250 bush. potatoes, 30 bush. turnips, 10 bush. carrots, 4 bush. beets, 1 1-2 bush. peas, 15 bush. apples, 9 calves, 9 pigs, 90 chickens, 21 turkeys, 1633 lbs. pork, 1040 lbs. beef, 825 lbs. cheese, 650 lbs. butter, 3 bush. beans, 12 loads pumpkins.

We find upon examination that the same skillful management which have heretofore characterized our Agent and Wife has been continued, as the appraisal of the large quantity and quality of provisions on hand, raised on the farm will testify.

We are of the opinion that the grain, provisions, &c., are amply sufficient for the season.

There have been at the Alms House during the past year from eight to sixteen inmates, five have died, three have left. The present number is eight.

All respectfully submitted.

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| J. M. DAVIDSON, | } Overseers<br>of the<br>Poor. |
| CHESTER PIKE,   |                                |
| L. MARTINDALE,  |                                |

## AGENT'S REPORT.

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The undersigned, Agent appointed to sell Wines and Spiritous Liquors for the Town of Cornish, from May 1st, 1858, one year, reports to March 1st, 1859, as follows:

### PURCHASES.

Bought 101 1-2 gallons Alcohol, 19 3-4 do. Holland Gin, 8 1-2 do. Brandy, 3 do. Port Wine, costing in all \$146 97

### SALES.

|                                                       |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Amount of cash received on 530 sales of Alcohol, Gin, |          |
| Brandy and Wine,                                      | \$135 57 |
| Amount on hand, 20 gallons Alcohol,                   | 16 00    |
| 7 " Gin,                                              | 1 12     |
| 3 " Brandy,                                           | 12 39    |
| 2 " Wine,                                             | 5 00     |
| Liquor barrels, &c.,                                  | 4 00     |
|                                                       | 45 51    |

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Amount,                     | \$181 08 |
| Deduct amount of purchases, | 146 97   |

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Balance in favor of the Town, | \$34 11 |
|-------------------------------|---------|

All the above sales were for Medicinal use, excepting 1 gallon of Alcohol for Mechanical and 3 gallons of the same for Chemical purposes.

J. O. WYMAN, *Agent*.

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## REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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FELLOW CITIZENS :—Having attended to the duties assigned me, as Superintending School Committee, I respectfully submit the following report of the condition of the Schools in this Town the past year :

*District No. 1.* Prudential Committee, Wm. C. Hart. Amount of school money, \$114,67. Number of scholars in summer, 26 ; in winter, 20. The summer term was commenced by Miss Lizzie C. Dering, of Cornish but her health failed, and at the end of one week she was obliged to give up the task. The school was continued 12 weeks, under the instruction of Miss Adeline Morse, of Weathersfield, Vt.

Miss M. was a faithful teacher, but hardly persevering and decided enough in discipline for a school like this. The scholars made commendable progress. The winter term of 14 weeks was taught by George P. Bennett, of Weathersfield, Vt. This was the teacher's first effort in teaching, yet he proved himself fully competent to the task, and displayed such a judgment in governing and teaching as would do honor to one of much more experience. Good progress was made in the several branches taught, and the deportment of the scholars was such as to reflect the highest credit both upon the teacher and themselves.

*District No. 2.* Prudential Committee, Daniel D. Freeman.—Amount of school money, \$105,21. Number of scholars in summer, 14; in winter, 20. The summer term of 12 weeks was taught by Miss Julia J. Fuller, of Plainfield, N. H. Complaints were made that the teacher did not keep full hours, and also that she used improper language in presence of her scholars. All appeared well when I was present, and I think the scholars made fair progress in their books. The winter school of 10 weeks was taught by James G. Freeman, of Cornish. The scholars advanced very rapidly in their books, and appeared to have a good knowledge of what they had been studying. It was pleasant to find a class so well drilled in the principles of writing. The closing examination was quite satisfactory.

*District No. 3.* Prudential Committee, James Wilder. Amount of school money, \$50,64. Number of scholars in summer, 15; in winter 15. The summer term of 12 weeks was taught by Miss Charlotte E. Bryant, of Cornish. The teacher was young and inexperienced, and failed to bring the school under proper discipline; therefore but a small degree of improvement was made. In winter the school was taught for 12 weeks by Miss Mary E. Burnap, of Plainfield, N. H. The discipline was good, and the instruction thorough, and the progress made by the different classes was quite satisfactory.

*District No. 4.* Prudential Committee, Moses Walker. Amount of school money, \$45,70. Number of scholars in summer, 15; in winter, 22. The summer term of 10 weeks was taught by Miss Julia T. Robinson, of Weathersfield, Vt. The order was good and the instruction thorough. The scholars made very commendable progress, and everything indicated a pleasant and profitable school. The winter term of 14 weeks was taught by Miss Lucy Bean, of Cornish. This teacher was younger by several years than any other member of our board of teachers, yet she proved herself a very thorough, careful, and energetic teacher. To labor for her scholars seemed no dreaded task. The scholars made decided improvement, and all seemed pleasant and happy.

*District No. 5.* Prudential Committee, Seth Johnson. Amount of school money, \$63,01. The summer term was commenced by

Miss Susan L. Spaulding, of Plainfield, N. H., but was closed at the end of seven weeks by reason of sickness in the teacher's family.—The school was not visited at its close, but I have reason to believe that it was not a very profitable school. Number of scholars 8. In winter the school was taught by Thomas Holbrook, of Cornish. This was the teacher's first school, yet he succeeded in governing and teaching very successfully. Indeed, a teacher's experience seems to be a poor criterion by which to judge of his usefulness. Number of scholars attending, 16.

*District No. 6.* Prudential Committee, Azar Bachelor. Amount of school money, \$163,78. In summer the primary school was taught 12 weeks by Miss Elvira L. Bryant, of Bridgewater, Vt.—Number of scholars 35. The teacher performed her duties well, and the closing examination was creditable to both teacher and scholars. The principal department was taught by Miss Laura J. Martindale of Cornish. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars 34. In Miss M. are combined, to a great degree, all the qualities of a useful teacher. The school improved rapidly under her instruction, and the closing examination was satisfactory in every respect. In winter the *primary* department was taught by Miss L. J. Martindale. It will be sufficient to say of this school that the teacher fully sustained her former reputation. Long may the youth of our town be favored with the services of such teachers. Number of scholars, 34. Length of school, 12 weeks. The principal department was taught by C. M. Lufkin, of Acworth, N. H. Length of school, 12 weeks. Number of scholars, 44. This school it would seem did not flourish, and about the middle of the term nearly one half of the scholars left the school. Of the cause of this I am unable to speak particularly. At the closing examination nineteen scholars were present, who performed their duties well. Great care should be exercised in selecting a teacher for this school, for it might be and should be the finest appearing school in town.

*District No. 7.* Prudential Committee, Samuel Ayres. Amount of school money, \$91,98. The summer term of 12 weeks was taught by Miss Lizzie A. Ayres, of Cornish. Miss A. is an experienced teacher, and fully sustained her former reputation. The closing examination was very interesting and highly satisfactory. Number of scholars, 26. The citizens of this district manifest their interest for the school by frequent visits to the school room.

The Fall term of eight weeks was taught by Miss Helen M. Richardson, of Charlestown, N. H. Miss R. is an experienced teacher, and seems to be one of those favored few on whom nature has bestowed the gift of teaching. At the closing examination, which took place in the presence of some thirty-five of the citizens and friends of the school, the scholars acquitted themselves handsomely in every exercise. The teacher reports that not one scholar whispered or asked leave to speak in school hours during the term.

In short it was as near a *model* school as any that I have witnessed in town. Number of scholars, 31.

The Winter term of 12 weeks was under the instruction of Edwin P. Frost of Charlestown, N. H. Mr. F. was an active and thorough teacher. The closing examination was interesting and satisfactory. It would have added much to the interest of the occasion if some of the scholars had spoken in a louder tone of voice.

*District No. 8.* Prudential Committee, Wm. C. Harlow.—Amount of school money, \$56 46. The summer term of 12 weeks was taught by Miss Mary L. Bascom of Newport, N. H. The school passed on pleasantly, and a fair degree of progress was made, yet it was evident that the older scholars were not so thoroughly drilled in their studies as is desirable. Number of scholars, 24.—In winter the school was taught by John A. George of Newport, N. H. This was the teacher's 3d term of teaching in this house. The former reputation of the school was sustained, and a good degree of progress made. The deportment of the scholars was highly creditable. I would caution the older members of this school not to give too much attention to the higher studies until the common branches are thoroughly understood. Number of scholars, 30.

*District No. 9.* Prudential Committee, G. W. Weld. Amount of school money, \$54 31. The summer school was taught by Miss Francena E. Morrison, of Claremont. This was the teacher's first effort, yet she proved herself a faithful and useful teacher. Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars, 11. Miss M. again took charge of the school in winter. Everything passed along pleasantly; the order was good and the scholars showed a decided improvement in their studies. Several of the citizens were present at the closing examination. Length of school, 13 weeks; number of scholars, 13.

*District No. 10.* Prudential Committee, Newton Jackson.—Amount of school money, \$78 63. The summer term of 10 weeks was taught by Miss Bell Deming of Cornish. Miss D. is a teacher of some experience. The order was good, the instruction thorough, and a fair degree of improvement was made. Number of scholars, 16. The winter term of 8 weeks was taught by John S. Moulton of Meriden. The term was a short one, yet the scholars seemed much devoted to their books and much good was accomplished. More attention should be given to the writing of compositions by the older members of this school. Number of scholars 31.

*District No. 11.* Prudential Committee, Chase S. Smith. Amount of school money, \$84.17. The summer term of 12 weeks was taught by Miss. Frances M. North, of Weathersfield, Vt. Miss. N. was a teacher of much energy and perseverance, and succeeded in gaining the entire confidence and good will of her scholars. good order was maintained, and the closing examination was highly creditable to teacher and scholars. Number of scholars 39. In

the winter the same teacher was again employed, and conducted the school with about the same success as in summer. Good order prevailed and a fair degree of proficiency was attained, in the several studies and the pleasant countenances and correct deportment of the scholars indicated that the best feelings existed between themselves and the teacher. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars, 41.

*District, No. 12.* Prudential Committee, B. Benway. Amount of school money, \$24,34. There has been but one term of school in this District the past year, commencing Aug. 30th, and continuing 16 weeks, taught by Miss Sula L. Hilliard, of Cornish. The scholars made very good progress, in some branches, while in others the teacher said, she had not been able to awaken much interest.— The school appeared quite well at the close. Number of scholars, 9.

*District, No. 13.* Prudential Committee, Stephen Williams, Jr. Amount of school money, \$61,50. No summer school in this District. The winter term, of 16 weeks, was taught by Miss Bell Deming, of Cornish. The teacher performed her duties well, and commendable progress was made. More energy on the part of some of the scholars in reading, and answering questions, would add materially to the appearance of this school. Number of scholars, 16.

*District No. 14.* Prudential Committee, John Deming, amount of school money \$28,61. No summer school in this district. In winter the school was taught for 10 weeks by Miss. Sula K. Fletcher, of Cornish. I did not receive notice of the commencement of this school in time to visit it until near the close of the term. Appearances indicated that the school had been a profitable one. Number of scholars, 8.

*District, No. 15.* Prudential Committee, Michael McCarty, amount of school money \$14,78. A summer term of 8 weeks was taught by Miss. Mary J. Hayden, of Claremont. Number of scholars, 4, who were all quite young; as much was accomplished as could be expected, in a juvenile school like this.

*District, No. 16.* Prudential Committee, Thomas A. Allen.— Amount of school money, \$56,57. The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss Susan M. Deming, of Cornish. This had the appearance of being a pleasant and profitable school. The order was good, the instruction careful and thorough, and a fair degree of improvement was made. Number of scholars, 26. In winter the school was taught by Miss Calista Haven, of Newport. Length of school, 13 1-2 weeks. Miss H. is a teacher of much experience.— Some two or three scholars became dissatisfied and left the school. I am of opinion that the teacher performed all her duties well. A good degree of progress was made, and the closing examination was highly creditable to teacher and scholars. Number of scholars, 31.

I have thus given you a very brief account of the condition of our schools individually. Allow me, in conclusion, to add a few general remarks and suggestions. In reviewing the schools it will

be observed that I find but little to censure, and much to approve. This is no flattery, for I have spoken the honest sentiments of my heart founded on what I have seen and heard in the school room.— At the commencement of the summer schools I urged upon the several teachers and scholars, the importance of good order, and especially invited them to abolish the habit of whispering, in school hours. The scholars generally approved of this regulation, and by their uplifted hands pledged themselves to its fulfilment; and most faithfully have they redeemed their pledge. In all my visits to the several schools, throughout the year I have seen but three scholars whisper. Teachers were requested to keep an account of the whispering in their schools and return the same to me. In most instances this has been done, and these reports reflect the highest honor upon the members of the different schools. Composition writing has been practiced more than formerly, and at the close of the winter terms in No. 6, 7, 8, also the fall term in No. 7, papers were read which would have done honor to more experienced writers.— A change of reading books has been called for by many of the teachers and older members of our schools for two years past. After a careful examination of the several series of readers now before the public I have decided in favor of Town & Holbrook's Progressive Readers, as being the books best suited for our schools and most likely to come into use in the neighboring towns of this State. And as the publishers were furnishing them for introduction this term, for about two-thirds the usual price, I availed myself of the opportunity to secure a supply for the schools of this town. They were gladly accepted by the scholars, and promptly paid for, and our schools now are fully supplied with new reading books. Our schools need a new spelling book, and we have too great a variety of grammars and geographies. The greatest good of the majority requires that but one text book in each branch should be tolerated, and it is hoped that as soon as practicable this may be the case, for every teacher is aware of the injurious effect of multiplying classes. It is evident that an increasing interest is being felt, by many of our citizens, for the welfare of our schools; this is encouraging. In several instances they have been present in goodly numbers at the closing examination. For myself, I would only say that while acting as committee of the town, but one motive has actuated me, and that has been a desire to elevate our schools. May the mantle of charity be thrown over my errors.— And now in closing this, probably my last report of the schools, I tender my heartfelt thanks to the teachers and scholars for the respect they have always shown me, and to those citizens who have shown so much kindness in welcoming me to their homes, I would express my warmest gratitude. May the common schools of our country which are the foundation of all our institutions of learning ever receive the fostering care of all.

WILLIAM BALLOCH,

*Superintending School Committee.*

CORNISH, March 3, 1859.